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CONDITIONS.

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RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

From the New-York Observer.

LETTER FROM THE REV. MESSRS. GOOD- ELL AND BIRD.

The following letter from the Rev. Messrs. Goodell and Bird, American Missionaries now residing at Malta, has just been received by a gentleman in this city, and politely handed to us for publication.

Malta, May 9, 1823.

"Since we departed amidst your prayers, your benedictions, and tears, we can truly say, that 'goodness and mercy have followed us;' our Saviour has granted us a temporary residence at Malta, where we are now diligently pursuing the study of the necessary languages. We occupy a house, which is sufficiently large for our three families, our printing press, our chapel, &c. On Sabbath evenings we have from 150 to 200 hearers; in the morning not so many. On Sabbath afternoon we have a Sabbath school, which consists of about seventy children, between 20 and 30 of whom are Greeks; some of them recite very accurately 100 verses each in the Greek Testament at a time. One of them last Sabbath recited 130 verses. Pray that the glory of the Lord may fill this our tabernacle; that 'the pillar of cloud may abide upon it by day, and the pillar of fire by night; that when this cloud is taken up, we may set forward on our journeys; and that when this rests, we may rest also.'

"Our brethren, Fisk and King, together with Mr. Wolff, a converted Jew, have gone to the Holy Land. The three months they spent in Egypt, as you will learn by the public journals, they were in labours more abundant. They had opportunity of speaking of the things of God to Jews and Gentiles in seven different languages, disposed of about 800 copies of the Holy Scriptures, or parts of the same, in twelve different languages, and distributed more than 2000 tracts, a part of which were printed at our press in Malta, now under the direction of Mr. Temple. At this press we have two men constantly employed, printing tracts in Italian and modern Greek. Surely in 'the wilderness are rivers breaking forth, and streams in the desert.'

"We are happy to assure you, that the cause of the Jews is exciting an interest even in this dark land. Last week a Society was formed here, called 'The Malta Jews' Society,' which promises to be exceedingly useful. Its particular object is, to facilitate the operations of those Societies in America or Europe that send missionaries to this part of the world. It was formed through the instrumentality of the Rev. Mr. Way; he and several others, among whom are the Rev. Mr. Lewis, a pious captain in the British navy, a converted Jew, and the brother of the Syrian Bishop, are all going up to Jerusalem and hope to be there at the feast of Pentecost. Mr. Way, a few years since, came into the possession of three hundred thousand pounds sterling, and all this, with his strength and his life, he feels happy in devoting to 'build up the walls of Jerusalem which are broken down, and the gates thereof which are burnt with fire.'

"A circumstance has recently occurred here which, we trust, will tend to the furtherance of the Gospel. The Catholic Bishop has complained to his Excellency the Governor of these islands, that such a thing exists here as a 'Malta Bible Society,' and that some one has even dared to distribute the gospel in the Maltese. The Chief Secretary, in the absence of his Excellency, has felt obliged, by the conditions on which the English possessed these islands, to notice these complaints. The Rev. Mr. Jowett, who is under the direction of the Church Missionary Society, has had several interviews with the Secretary, and has received and returned several written communications, and the affair has already awakened energy among the few friends of the Bible in this place; it has increased their union; inspired confidence in each other; and we all indulge the highest expectation of a great enlargement instead of any abridgement of our religious means.

"When we survey the difficulties before us, we say with confidence, 'Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.' We desire your prayers that our souls may never be discouraged—We bow the knee unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he would grant us, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man, that we may be 'always abounding in the work of the Lord.'

"In the fellowship of saints, we remain yours,
"W. GOODELL,
"I. BIRD."

SANDWICH ISLAND MISSION.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. H. Bingham, to the Editor of the Recorder, dated Oahu, Sandwich Islands, March 10, 1823.

"Much, very much have we allowed us for our comfort under the various toils and trials of missionary life. The Lord prospers our way. He has inclined the ear of the Ruler of these Islands to listen to the sound of the gospel. They have publicly acknowledged the Christian Sabbath, and to some extent prohibited labour and sport on that sacred day, and habitually attend themselves on the public worship of Jehovah, whom they now acknowledge as their God. Kings & priests are stretching out their hands to us to receive instruction, & individual chiefs are desirous to engage & secure instructors for themselves and their people, from among those who are daily expected to come from your shores, to enter into our extended labors, and to occupy these widening, whitening fields. Could you see on a Sabbath morning, at the sound of the 'church-going-bell,' a thousand natives including the king and principal chiefs of the Islands, emerging from the village, walking across the plain, filling the house of prayer, and crowding about the door and windows to hear the voice of prayer and praise within, and the accents of Divine mercy inviting them to hear and live, your soul would rise in invocation—'Awake, O heavenly wind and blow;' and you would long, with panting heart and trumpet tongue, to call on all who love the souls of the heathen, to pray without ceasing, that the purifying and life giving Spirit of God may be poured out upon them in rich effusion, till the King of saints should have full possession of the hearts of this people, destroy their lusts and the power of satan, and give them joyful victory over the world, and an incorruptible inheritance among the saints in light.

"Could you have seen them with proffered sympathy and kindness, in decent and respectful order, following with me the remains of our sweet little Levi Parsons to his early grave in this heathen land, you would not only have sympathized with me and

the bereaved mother confined to her room while this lovely loan was taking from her fond embrace, but you would have loved this people more for their kindness to us in this hour of trial.—I have laid the green turf upon the grave of our slumbering infant in a small enclosure near the church in the midst of this extensive plain, over which thousands daily pass, without God, without hope, without spiritual life or light, but whom, with tens and hundreds of thousands of their successors we would labor to conduct to glory.—God has kindly sustained us in our afflictions, and in our work thus far. He has brought to our aid Brother Ellis from Huaheine, and we are daily expecting a large reinforcement from your well disciplined ranks, and we have the satisfaction to believe that the way is prepared for their entrance into this wide and opening field; but they, as well as we, without faith and patience—nay, without special and divine support, would soon wither and faint and die, under the burden and heat of the day. Here, are no seats of ease, no days of leisure, no royal road to victory. But He, who hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty—He is our hope and shield."

MISSION TO HAYTI.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. Thomas Paul, dated "Port-au Prince, July 16, 1813.

"I had an interview with the President, which lasted two hours; found him much of a gentleman. He treated me with kindness; but it was with some difficulty that I could prevail on him to grant me liberty to preach Christ on this Island. I was compelled to resort to all the arguments in my power,—that it would be for the spiritual and temporal good of thousands of precious souls. I told him what God was doing in the four quarters of the world at present, in spreading his word and gospel; and the happy effects that resulted from it; and that I hoped this Island would not be an exception to this happy reform. I told him that there were many in the Island who were Protestants, who would not attend to the [established] religion of the country; and that they had, both at the Cape and in this city, earnestly requested me to preach, and had spoken for a hall for that purpose. I told them, however, that I should decline until I had consulted the Government.—The result was, I obtained liberty. God willing, I hope to begin next Lord's-day. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!"

In a more recent letter, dated "Cape Haytien, August 6, 1823," Mr. Paul writes,—

"I have had a long interview with the President and Heads of Government, and have obtained liberty and protection of the Government to preach."—*Christian Watchman.*

From London Publications, just received at the Office of the Christian Watchman.

The Annual Meetings of the Societies engaged in promoting the Kingdom of Christ, are now become occasions of bringing together eye-witnesses of the state of the world in its different quarters; and of the necessity and benefit, every where, of Christian Labourers. The testimony of these intelligent witnesses, delivered as it usually is with a simplicity worthy of the subject, never fails to make a deep impression on our crowded assemblies; and becomes, not seldom, the ground-work of enlarged views and truly eloquent appeals, on the part of other speakers. Our limits will not allow very extended extracts of the Addresses delivered at the late Anniversaries; but we have endeavoured to make a selection of the most interesting statements of facts and sentiments which were then made. The facts are first given, and are followed by some extracts which develop the principles and feelings

on which these great deeds of charity are conducted.—*Lond. Miss. Reg.*

Progress of Bible Societies in France.

My Lord, I certainly do look forward with great satisfaction to the increased prosperity of the Bible Institution in France. I cannot help thinking it is admirably adapted to supply, in that country, the wants which it still lamentably feels: and that we are best evincing the sincerity of our friendship to that country, in our hopes that it will make progress in every thing that is excellent, and become our ally in every thing that is a benefit to mankind. I trust the day may not be distant, when we shall find that even the Princes themselves of France co-operate in this great work.—*Lord Calthorpe—at the Bible Society Ann.*

I am convinced, my Lord, and that conviction can alone support me, that no human eloquence, no ornaments of speech, or grace of delivery, would cheer and delight this meeting so much as the good tidings of the advancement of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by the increasing distribution of the Sacred Volume, and by the more serious study of those Scriptures which testify of the Son of God.

With heartfelt gratitude to the God of all grace, and with the liveliest satisfaction, I assure your Lordship and this respectable Assembly, that the Paris Protestant Bible Society, zealously supported by its Auxiliaries, is labouring, in its limited sphere, with increasing and remarkable success.

That success, my Lord, and we embrace every opportunity of stating the fact, that success is your own. Since the commencement of our operations, your Lordship and your fellow-labourers in this holy work, have assisted us by your counsel, and furnished us with the means of keeping pace with circumstances, and of meeting the duties of our sacred trust. The ties which unite our Society to yours were formed, if I may be allowed so to speak, in its very cradle, by the hands of our beloved and ever-to-be-regretted Mr. Owen: they became our leading-strings as we advanced: they have been found stronger and more useful at every step: nothing, we trust, can weaken or dissolve them. No, my Lord, the bonds of Christian love, the ties of Christian gratitude and fellowship, are as imperishable as the principles by which they have been woven.

We have now the active and liberal co-operation of 65 Auxiliaries and Branches and 49 Associations: of these 114 Societies, 53 have been established since our last Anniversary. The income of the Paris Society has, this year, amounted to 125,000 francs. Since the origin of the Society, 30,000 Bibles and Testaments have been issued from its Depositories; and the wants of the country seem to extend with the efforts made for their diminution.

One of the means most successfully employed, under the divine blessing, by the Committee of Paris, to rouse some of our brethren from indifference, and to excite to greater zeal our associates in this beneficent work, has been, the monthly publication of a Paper, containing extracts from the correspondence of this Parent Society, as well as from our own; and striking examples of the salutary influence of the circulation of the Scriptures, that come to our knowledge. This publication has been plentifully distributed among our brethren, in all parts of France: it is now eagerly inquired after: we owe to it 17 Associations, formed at Paris; and we hope that it will still powerfully contribute to the extension and the consolidation of our Holy Biblical Union.

Thus, my Lord, in a much narrower sphere than that of your glorious Society, but in the same spirit, and in reliance on the same grace and the same saving power of our Blessed Redeemer, we are endeavouring to accelerate the coming of the days, foretold by the Oracles of God, when all men shall be taught of the Lord; and feel, by conviction, founded on repeated and infallible tests, how wide is the difference between knowledge drawn from the Word of God and doctrines derived from every other source.

It is, my Lord, a general, and, I think, a most remarkable opinion, that the mighty exertions and the wonderful success of the British and Foreign Bible Society, presenting as they do, not only the possibility, but the high probability, or, rather, the certitude, of the final accomplishment of prophecy, will add new force to the proofs of their heavenly origin; and thus, by strengthening the faith of mankind in their divine inspiration, hasten the arrival of that period, when all tongues shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.—*Rev. Professor Stapfer—at the Bible Society Anniversary.*

REVIVALS.

In the College at Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, we learn that a most powerful work of Grace has commenced. It was first discovered at a communion season which was held about eight weeks ago; and has been more powerful in its operations, in some instances, than any we have ever heard of. Soon after it began, a pious young man, by the name of Moore, a distinguished scholar, was called from this world. His zeal at the commencement of the work was very great. He made it his business to visit the rooms of the anxious students, comfort and pray with them. But in the midst of this zeal he was called away to his Master. This providence has been the means of awakening several of the most profane in the college; and the attention to religion was increasing very rapidly among the students.

A ministering brother at Laurel Hill, N. C. in a letter to his friend in this city, gives an account of the state of religion in that vicinity. The Springhill Baptist church has been favoured, for more than two years with an almost continual revival. A large number have been converted and added to the church. He remarks that the brethren are affectionately harmonious in prayer and other efforts for the spread of evangelical light and truth. The females have formed a Missionary Society, and meet weekly for prayer and religious conversation. Even children voluntarily contribute their mites for the benefit of heathen youth. He thinks that a spirit of charity and unfeigned benevolence prevails among them, which, if diffused among all the churches, would render the task very easy to collect money for sending the gospel of peace and salvation to the benighted regions of the earth.

About 30 miles from Laurel Hill, near the Grassy Islands and on the Big Pedee, in Richman county, a Baptist church has recently been constituted, a large and commodious place of worship built, and two Missionary Societies formed. The Lord has been pleased to pour out his Spirit there, and several, upon a profession of faith, have been baptized and united to the church. The spirit of Missions is rapidly increasing in that favoured region.

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION.

The Columbia Association held its annual meeting last week, at Rock Hill, Stafford county, Virginia. The Rev. Robert Lathan preached the introductory sermon from Gal. vi. 14. The churches were generally very well represented, and the whole business was transacted with great unanimity and affection. Ten sermons were preached at the stand by different brethren, most of which were heard with attention and apparent seriousness. The weather was cool and exceedingly pleasant during the whole session. The crowd of people was large and respectable; and it should be told to the honour of the church and friends at Rock Hill, that notwithstanding the multitude of people, white and coloured, unusual order and decorum, without exception, were preserved. May the Lord greatly bless that people, and grant them a revival of His own work.—*Col. Star.*

PLEASING PROSPECTS.

We have lately received a letter from an intelligent friend in the country, whose means of information, particularly in the Baptist connexion, are very great, in which we are informed that there are pleasing evidences of increasing attention to religion in various parts of South Carolina. In Fairfield, large congregations assembled every successive day for a week, during a visit of a missionary of the Charleston Baptist Association; and four flourishing Sunday

Schools have been established in this district within a few months, owing principally to missionary labours. In one part of this district, where the ordinance of Baptism had not been administered for many years, this ordinance has been twice administered lately, and several are now anxiously inquiring the way to Zion. In Sumpter district, a spirit of exertion has been excited among Christians—they are watching over and praying for each other. In Bethel church, eleven have lately been baptized by a missionary; and many more are earnestly desiring to be instructed more perfectly in the plan of salvation. This church has recently, we understand, invited a minister to settle among them, which has been accepted. A person offering to join one church was the means of arousing the dormant life of the members, and of fastening conviction on others; and after this others offered, who stated their having been brought to reflection by the conversation of the members. "O, how important is it," says our correspondent, "that the members of churches should fan the flame of devotion, when it begins to burn! since every member of the church of Christ has some talent to improve." In Columbia, prayer meetings, evening prayer meetings! (the happy means of uniting Christians, and pulling down the strong holds of Satan)—have been recently established, and attention to them is increasing—"O pray for us!—pray for Columbia!" is earnestly the language of Christians there. We hope their entreaty will not be neglected by their brethren here. And that also the South Carolina College, with all its instructors and students, be repeatedly and anxiously remembered at the throne of Grace.—*South-ern Intelligencer.*

MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, the 31st of May last, delegates from six auxiliary Societies met at the Great Crossing, Kentucky. The Rev. James Fishback preached an introductory sermon from Psalm lxxviii. 11. The same gentleman was appointed chairman. A constitution was adopted, of which the first article is as follows:—"This Society shall hereafter be known and called by the name of the Baptist Missionary Association of Kentucky, for diffusing the blessings of civilization and religion, and for other benevolent purposes." The Association is to be wholly composed of delegates from Auxiliary Societies that may be formed in that state. Each Society, in order to entitle it to representation, is required to pay annually the sum of ten dollars. The annual meeting is on the last Saturday of May.—*Col. Star.*

CHINESE NOTIONS OF A FUTURE STATE.

From the Indo-Chinese Gleaner.

The Chinese must have a very irrational idea, as it would seem, of the state of the dead, from their supposing that houses, and garments, and money, and food, are wanted by spirits in that state. Paper houses, and gilt garments are commonly burnt and sent by fire to the invisible state for friends deceased. However, we have lately had an instance here of a complete wardrobe, consisting of silks, sables, &c. to the amount of eight thousand dollars, being all consumed for the service of a rich old merchant, who died about four months ago. His son, who has committed this folly, is a person of education, and of the Joo-kean, or sect of philosophers in China.

The brother of the deceased also departed this life but a few months ago, and left a large and necessitous family, in which similar expensive and useless rites were performed. Such cases are some of the minor temporal ills arising from the superstition of fallen reason; but when compared with the burning a widow, the burning of a wardrobe is indeed but a slight evil.

From the Missionary Herald.

CHOCTAW MISSION.

Our readers will be pleased to learn, that the Hon. John Pickering, of Salem, has with the assistance of Mr. David Brown, nearly prepared for the press a Grammar of the Cherokee Language, which will render important aid in systematizing all the kindred dialects, viz. the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, &c.

Under date of April 21, the Rev. Mr. Bascom writes from Mayhew, where he had arrived on his way to the north, after having spent several months very usefully and happily at Elliot :

The present state of the mission here, and the general system of the Indian missions, has excited much attention for many weeks past ; and I think our frequent conversations on the subject have done good. They appear to have been made instrumental of promoting a spirit of prayer, of humility, of faith, and of cheerful hope. Past and present trials appear to be employed as seasonable lessons in the hands of the Spirit to teach the hearts of his people. Yesterday the sweet beams of divine goodness shone upon us while surrounding the table of our dying Lord. The general impulse now appears to be in favor of being more among the natives, and of making more direct efforts to bring them acquainted with the Saviour. The increase of local schools, and of itinerant evangelists, seems to be the more promising means of gaining this object.

Upon the whole, there has been a very encouraging progress, of late, both among the Choctaws and Cherokees. Both fields are evidently becoming white for the harvest ; and it is to be hoped, that there will not be a deficiency of men for the service, who shall be willing to submit to hard fare and hard labor, for life, with no other reward here on earth, than the consciousness of doing good.

GRATITUDE FOR THE BIBLE.

From the Report of the Bible Society in Cincinnati.

Two ladies were affected to tears by their visit to a poor German woman, whom they found, with apparent insensibility, mechanically turning her wheel. To their question, had she a Bible ? she answered in broken English she had a piece of a Testament ; they informed her they could let her have a Bible ; she still unmoved replied, their Bibles would do her no good, as she could not read them ; but when they informed her they could let her have a German Bible, she suddenly shoved away her wheel, turned and looked upon them, with anxiety depicted in her countenance, as if to ascertain whether she heard aright, and with clasped hands exclaimed, " what ! a whole German Bible ? " and when answered in the affirmative, again repeated with energy, (her whole countenance speaking the grateful sensations of her heart) " shall I have a whole German Bible once more ? I will work hard to get it, though very poor, and my family to support." Judge if you can of her gratitude, and of the exquisite pleasure of your almoners, when they told her she should immediately possess such a treasure, and pay for it when she could collect the money.—*Mis. Her.*

From the Missionary Herald, for September.

LAST NOTICE.

Communications from Bombay, Ceylon, and the Sandwich Islands, came to hand as this sheet was going to press. We have only room to say, that those missions are evidently making advances in their appropriate work.

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Southern Intelligencer.
CHRISTIAN EXERTION.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me ? Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward.—Ex. xiv. 15.

In the time of difficulty and discouragement, to have God for our refuge, and his ear open to our cry, is the happy privilege of the children of God. The Scriptures encourage us to acknowledge God in all our ways, and assure us that in so doing, he will direct our paths. And indeed it is recorded in the sweet experience of every Christian, as it was in David's—" I sought the Lord and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears." " When my soul was overwhelmed within me, the mercy of the Lord held me up." " In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God, he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before

him, even unto his ears." And in looking over past experience, how many precious seasons are there to remember, when deliverance, support, and direction, have come, and come doubly sweet, because they have come in answer to prayers and petitions addressed to our Covenant God, our Heavenly Father. These words go to establish another and important fact, and connected with the history in which they stand may afford encouragement and direction. The fact they establish is this, the people of God should unite with their earnest prayers, steady and persevering exertions.

Here were the children of Israel encamped by the express command of God, behind two cities of Egypt, and the sea before them, exposed to the assaults of their pursuing enemies, and the raging of the Red Sea. Death with all its terrors behind them, and no way of escape before them.—Now the minds of the Israelites began to murmur at Moses ; but amidst all these difficulties, Moses in the vigorous exercise of faith, exhorts the people to stand still and see the salvation of God ; for although the prayer of Moses is not recorded—the Lord said unto Moses, " Wherefore criest thou unto me ? " Why is thy secret but fervent prayer ascending unto me, while you remain inactive. God does not reprove Moses for praying in his trouble, but directs him to act as well as pray. Similar to this was the direction to Joshua, (recorded Josh. vii. 10.)—" Get thee up, wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face ? Up, sanctify the people." But to return. " Wherefore criest thou unto me, speak to the children of Israel, that they go forward." Do not these words afford direction to all who are called by grace, to separate from the world, and devote themselves to the service of Him, who hath done such great things for us. Shall we not say, my brother ! my sister ! go forward. Shall we not take them each to himself, and say, O my soul ! while thou art feeling for the interests of Zion, while thou art earnestly, fervently and sincerely praying for the prosperity of the church, for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, O, be anxiously concerned for thyself to go forward. Go forward in the knowledge and enjoyment of thy God. Go forward under the teaching of his Spirit. Go forward in active exertion to recommend the Saviour ! to win souls to Christ ! Go forward by studying how thou shalt best speak of Him ! how thou shalt best recommend His beauty ! His grace ! His work ! His love ! His salvation ! are the mountains on either side ? Are these difficulties and discouragements behind, and discouraging prospects before, still the exhortation is, " Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward ! " And does God say go forward,—and will he not cause his blessing to go with us ? Numbers may be small, but two or three have the promise of His presence. Active exertion, accompanied with earnest prayer, will be blessed of God with increase. Have we yet done all we can ?—If not, go forward. Have we as members of Christ, done all we can to promote his glory ?—to promote each others' welfare ?—to build up the walls of Zion ?—to provoke each other to love and to good works ?—to invite and encourage others to go with us ?—If not, go forward. In the morning sow thy seed, in the evening withhold not thy hand. Be not weary. In due time we shall reap if we faint not. G.

Natural things, or the infidel reclaimed.

Sitting lately in a public room at Brighton, where an infidel was haranguing the company upon the absurdities of the Christian religion, I could not but be pleased to see how easily his " reasoning pride " was put to shame. He quoted those passages, " I and the father are one."—" I in them and thou in me ; " and that there are Three Persons in one God. Finding his auditors not disposed to applaud his blasphemy, he turned to one gentleman and said, with an oath, " Do you believe such nonsense ? " The gentleman replied, " Tell me how that candle burns ? " " Why," answered he, " the tallow, the cotton, and the atmospherick air produce the light." " Then they make one light do they not ? " " Yes." " Will you tell me how they are one in the other, and yet but one light ? " " No, I cannot ! " " But you believe it ? " He replied, " He could not say

he did not ; " and the company in application by smiling at his folly, a conversation was changed. This man young and inexperienced, that if they only what they can explain, they may with their senses, being surrounded by the works of God, whose ways are past finding out, but who, blessed be his name, has revealed his salvation to many who can as firmly believe in his goodness and mercy as in their own existence.

THE CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

HARTFORD, SEPTEMBER 6, 1823.

BAPTIST CHURCH CONVENTION.

At a meeting of Delegates from a number of the Baptist churches in this State, held at Suffield on the 6th inst. for the purpose of consulting on the expediency of forming a Missionary Convention, Brother Jonathan Goodwin of Mansfield was called to the chair, and brother Eli Ball of Middletown was appointed clerk of the meeting.

The previous question was moved : Is it expedient, in the opinion of this meeting, to form a Convention of the churches in this State and vicinity for missionary purposes ?

After mature deliberation it was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

A Committee consisting of Brethren Samuel West, Rufus Babcock, Asa Wilcox, Elisha Cushman, and Eli Ball were appointed to prepare and report a Constitution.—Adjourned.

At 4 o'clock, P. M. the Delegates again assembled, when the Committee presented the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1st. The style of this Convention shall be, " The General Convention of the Baptist Churches in the State of Connecticut."

ART. 2nd. The object of this Convention shall be to assist the destitute Baptist Churches in this State and vicinity, in supporting the regular ministry of the gospel, and whatever else may tend to promote the edification of the Churches in holiness ; and to spread the influence of evangelical religion.

ART. 3d. This Convention shall be composed of delegates from the Associated Baptist churches in this state, and from all other churches of the same faith and order, under the following regulations, viz. Each Church that shall make an annual contribution to the funds of the Convention may appoint one delegate, and a certificate from the Church certifying his appointment, shall entitle such delegate to a seat in the Convention ; and Delegates so appointed shall be members of the Convention for 1 year. The business of the Convention may be transacted by a majority of the members present. Delegates from Churches not within the limits of this State, may be admitted on the same terms with those within the State.

ART. 4th. The Convention shall meet annually, at such time and place as they shall previously appoint, at which time there shall be elected by ballot a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Directors, who shall constitute a Board to carry into effect the resolves of the Convention, and make a report to them annually of their doings the preceding year. The Treasurer shall give competent security to the Convention for the funds in his possession, which security shall be lodged in the hands of the Secretary.

ART. 5th. All missionaries under the patronage of the Convention shall be regular members of some associated Baptist Church, or of some Church of the same faith and order with the associated Churches.

ART. 6th. All monies specifically designated for missionary purposes, whether foreign or domestic shall be faithfully applied according to such specification. The Convention also shall have power to make appropriations from time to time to the General Missionary Convention of the Baptist denomination in the United States.

ART. 7th. No alteration shall be made in this constitution, but at an annual meeting, and that by the consent of two thirds of the Churches composing the Convention.

On motion it was resolved that the foregoing constitution be recommended to the churches, and that the churches be requested to express their opinion on the same at the next meeting of Delegates.

A committee consisting of brethren Samuel West, Jonathan Goodwin, Eli Ball, and Elisha Cushman, were appointed to forward a copy of the Constitution to each church in the state, accompanied with an address on that subject.

Resolved, that the next meeting of Delegates be holden at the Baptist Meeting-house in Hartford, on the last Wednesday of October, 1823, at 10 o'clock A. M.

TO THE BAPTIST CHURCHES IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

Pursuant to a resolve of the meeting of Delegates, held at Suffield on the 6th of November last, the undersigned committee beg leave to address you on the subject which was then had under consideration. It is an acknowledged fact, that the kingdom of our blessed Lord is built up in the world by his divine agency; but it is equally certain that he is pleased to employ his people as instruments in the glorious work. It follows of course, that when sinners are born into the kingdom of Christ, it becomes their duty and privilege to devote their influence towards the enlargement of that kingdom around them. It seems to have been the mind of the Lord in early ages to unite his children in the bonds of church-fellowship, that thereby they might be enabled the better to understand each others' necessities and to unite their strength in whatever required their attention. It also appears from the scriptures that there was some general correspondence among the primitive churches, by which the abundance of one branch of the christian family was made to supply the lack of another. By this means also a harmony of feeling was excited, and a unity of operation was promoted in the diffusion of evangelical truth.

The circumstances under which the churches of Christ exist at the present day, afford if possible, some additional reasons for a more intimate acquaintance, and for a union of counsel and exertion. There is much to be done by the disciples of Jesus in spreading the truth, and in withstanding the floods of iniquity which seem so extensively to prevail. But this is not all. Among the numerous and well designed efforts of christians at the present day, there is apparent danger of perverting the design of the best institutions, and of promoting some worldly policy under the profession of christian activity, taking as it were the work of the Lord into our hands. To preserve the simplicity of the gospel in all our attempts to do good, it is of the greatest importance that the watchful care of all christians should be combined with their pious zeal; and hence it becomes desirable to unite as far as possible the counsels of all in those measures in which all are interested.

It was under these impressions that the proposition was first made for a Convention of Delegates from each church in this state. The Baptist Missionary Society has indeed answered in some measure the objects above mentioned; but as that society is made up of individual subscribers, and not of churches, there has not been obtained so general a knowledge of the state of the churches throughout the state, as is necessary for the promotion of the general interest.

The concerns of the church of Christ in general, have necessarily called for some public pecuniary contributions; these have been attended to of late at the associations of churches, and thus have in a great measure interrupted those devotional exercises which were originally contemplated. Could there be a general convention held once in a year, these concerns could be made a part of the business of the meeting, and that would leave the associations wholly to the practice of religious worship.

The constitution which precedes this address, was intended as a general plan; it is expected that the churches will suggest such alterations and amendments at the next meeting of Delegates, as they may think proper. No material objection has yet been made to the proposition for forming a convention, but many who could not attend at the late meeting of delegates for want of timely notice, have since expressed their decided approbation of the measure. The next meeting of the Delegates will be holden at Hartford, on the last Wednesday in October, 1823.

In behalf of the Meeting of Delegates.

SAMUEL WEST,
JONATHAN GOODWIN,
ELI BALL,
ELISHA CUSHMAN.

F. will meet with due attention next week.

MARRIED,

In this city, Mr. Richard Bigelow to Miss Martha P. Smith.

At New-London, Mr. John Huntington to Miss Eliza Ann Skinner.

In Ashford, Mr. Ephraim Bowers to Miss Triphenia Chapman.

In Groton, Mr. Simeon Chester, jr. to Miss Eveline Fish.

DIED,

In this city, on the 4th inst. Mr. Isaac Sweetland, aged 61.

At Middletown, on the 4th inst. Mrs. Sarah Burnham, aged 43, wife of Joshua P. Burnham, Esq. Mrs. Mary E. Holmes, aged 23, wife of Mr. Chester Holmes.

At Rockaway, L. I. Maj. Gen. Ebenezer Stevens, of New-York, in the 72d year of his age.

At Serampore, on the 7th March last, Rev. Dr. Wm. Ward, Baptist Missionary from England.

In Griswold, Elijah Lester, Esq. aged 70.

In Coventry, Mr. Amos Avery, 87.

In Ashford, Mrs. Wealthy Crane, 38.

In Mansfield, Mr. Solomon Rice, 70.

In Hampton, Mr. Daniel Burnham, 62.

In Windham, Mrs. Emily Badger, 44, wife of Edmund Badger, Esq.

In Hampton, Dr. John Brewster, 84.

From the London Jewish Expositor.

The missionary, Wolff, met at Jerusalem with some aged Jews who came from Poland to die there. One of them said to him, "It is not pleasant now to live in Palestine, but it is pleasant to die in this land, and all of us here have come to die in the land of Israel."

RETURNING from a stranger land,

We come, a feeble, aged band,
To linger out life's fading hours,
Beside our ruined Salem's towers;
Where once exulting myriads trod,
To throng the fane of Judah's God;
With trembling pace her exiles creep,
Lean on the way-worn staff, and weep.

The spicy breath of Lebanon
Our welcome sighs, and passes on:
We stand on Olivet's ascent,
Where royal David weeping went.
Behold yon spot, profaned by foes,
'Twas there our beauteous temple rose;
But not a vestige, not a stone,
Tells where Jehovah's dwelling shone!

Unmeet it were for us to dwell
Where Pagan hymns from Zion swell;
And day by day, with callous eye,
Gaze on her faded Majesty;
And view the gorgeous Mosque arise,
Where blaz'd her holiest sacrifice.
Beneath the Crescent's impious pride
It is not meet that we abide.

But oh, how pleasant 'tis to die
Where Israel's ruin'd glories lie!
How sweet to bid her children's bones
Blend with the dust of Salem's stones!
Her's is the mould beneath them spread,
And her's the sod above their head.
E'en the cold worm with slimy coil,
Is welcome, bred in Judah's soil.

Soon shall these weary frames of ours,
Dissolve like Salem's crumbling towers;
Her outcast tribes no longer come
To greet her as their hallowed home;
But sadly joy to lay their head
Beneath her foes' insulting tread;
To fall by her they could not save;
Their glory once, and now their grave!

Say, Christian, canst thou hear that plaintive strain
Breathe o'er Judea's desolated plain;
While the sad Exiles, worn with age and woe,
With faltering step, and swelling bosom go;
Where erst, descending from the Olive steep,
One mightier far than David paus'd to weep!
O canst thou hear nor ask an eagle's wing,
An angel's tongue, the tale of peace to bring?
From the high mount to send the joyful word,
"O comfort ye my people," saith the Lord.

SUMMARY.

From the Baltimore Federal Gazette, Aug. 13.

SUCCESS OF THE GREEKS.

Capt. Dickerson, of the brig Midas, arrived yesterday from Smyrna, informs that he sailed from thence the 16th of June, experienced a succession of calms and light winds coming down the Mediterranean, as also in the Atlantic. Every part of the Mediterranean is full of small cruizers, generally boats pirating. Capt. Dickerson saw two off Tunis full of men, they hoisted a Tunisian ensign pendant, and bore down for the Midas, who had a good breeze, all her steering sails out, they on nearing, not liking the warlike appearance of the brig, hauled off to the shore; two days after saw another, took him to be a fisherman until he fired a gun, ran up French colours and a pendant—not liking his looks, immediately tacked ship, he was round for us as soon, fired a shot and gave chase, which continued from 2 till 5 P. M. when we hauled in shore. Capt. D. heard at Milo that two privateers had been seen cruising near there.

About the 1st of June the Turks landed an army of 5000 men at Espamatore in Negropont, they were immediately all cut up or taken prisoners by the Greeks. The information was brought to Smyrna by a vessel di-

rect from the place. The Algerine, Tunisian, Egyptian and Turkish fleets, consisting of from 150 to 160 sail, large and small, had come out of the Dardanelles; they have no ship of the line with them this summer, fearing the Greek fire-ships, of which the Greeks have fifteen. On the 17th of June saw and counted the Grecian fleet, between the Islands of Myhene and Ispara, steering east for the Gulf of Smyrna, it consisted of 135 sail, but one ship in the fleet, 45 to 50 brigs, the others of different rig. Was informed at Milo that the Turkish fleet had been off the Island about the 8th of June, standing towards Candia. It was said that the Captain Pacha, had received full powers from the Grand Signior to make a peace or destroy the Greeks this summer. It was said at Smyrna that he would not return to Constantinople without having accomplished something decisive, but make his winter quarters. The Greeks on the other hand appear firm and undismayed, notwithstanding the imposing force which the Turks have brought against them.

The British, French, and Dutch squadrons continued to visit Smyrna occasionally to afford assistance to European residents, but from the jealousy of commerce, they appeared rather to lean on the side of the Turks in the war. None of the United States vessels had been high up the Mediterranean since the Constitution, which paid but a short visit, exchanged salutes with the British and French squadrons, and sailed.

DREADFUL MORTALITY IN AFRICA.

By the arrival of the brig Oswego at this port, we learn that when she left Cape Messurado, the American Colonists at Monrobia, (Africa) were nearly all sick of the fever. The Oswego took out 61 settlers from Baltimore, who were all landed in good health, but who previous to her sailing had died; and nearly all those remaining were sick of the fever, and it is not probable twenty will survive the present season. It has been most lamentable that all the American settlers who have gone to Africa, have chosen the most unfavourable season, arriving just at the commencement, or in the midst of the rainy season, they are almost sure to sicken and die.

Doct. Ayres, who went out in the Oswego to assume the Government of the Colony, was taken sick a few days after he arrived, and was left very ill when the Oswego sailed. The Rev. Mr. Ashman had partially recovered from his late illness.

We also learn by a gentleman, passenger in the Oswego, that the Fort erected at Monrobia, Africa, for the protection of the American Colony, by Capt. Spence, officers and crew of the Cyane, disappeared in a tornado, the foundation being placed on round logs, the walls, although of considerable height and of great weight, gently rolled away before the wind—scarce a vestige of the fort remains.—*Balt. Pat.*

A mortal sickness prevails in Bethel, Maine, particularly among children. In one neighbourhood ten children have died in three weeks—and others in the town. On last Monday more than thirty were sick, in the Congregational Parish, several of whom were given over—and new cases are occurring every day. The disorder, which is called the dysentery, baffles the skill of physicians, and very few patients recover.—*Portland Gazette.*

Aleppo.—A letter from the British Consul, dated Aleppo, May 9, states that the Ophthalmia became so general after the earthquake of last year, that not more than three persons in ten escaped the infection throughout the district visited by the earthquake. The Consul says; "Of nine persons who composed my family, five were sufferers from that cruel disorder. Of the survivors of the Jews at Aleppo, (not more than 2400,) 74 lost their sight! And although the number of Turks and Christians here who became blind immediately after their providential escape from the earthquake cannot be exactly ascertained, I can safely state it to be more than 1500!"

Death of the Rev. William Ward of Serampore.

The following is a copy of a note from Dr. Carey to the Baptist missionaries at Calcutta, announcing the above affecting intelligence. Mr. Ward has been ill but one day. The fatal disease was the cholera morbus:—

"Our dear brother Ward breathed his last about half an hour ago, viz. a quarter before five o'clock, and will be committed to the grave to-morrow evening. It will be a comfort under our affliction, to see any of our brethren from Calcutta on that painful occasion.

"I am, very affectionately, yours,
"March 7, 1823. "W. CAREY."

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE,

A PARTICULAR RELATION

OF THE

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION

TO THE

BURMAN EMPIRE.

In a series of Letters, addressed to Joseph Butterworth,

Esq. M. P. London.

BY ANN H. JUDSON.